

Yellowstone

Day Hikes

Avalanche Peak

Hoyt Peak

Grizzly Peak

Top Notch Peak

Mt. Langford

Mt. Doane

Mt. Stevenson

In the Fishing Bridge & Lake Areas

Yellowstone National Park
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone, WY 82190
www.nps.gov/yell



Welcome to the Fishing Bridge and Lake Areas

The shores of Yellowstone Lake have attracted humans for centuries—and provide excellent habitat for wildlife. We invite you to spend a few hours hiking the area's scenic trails.

Always carry rain gear, extra food and water, and other emergency equipment when venturing into the backcountry.

Be sure to obtain current trail condition and bear activity information at visitor centers.

Anglers must have a Yellowstone National Park fishing permit in their possession. Consult the park newspaper or rangers at visitor centers.

Cautions



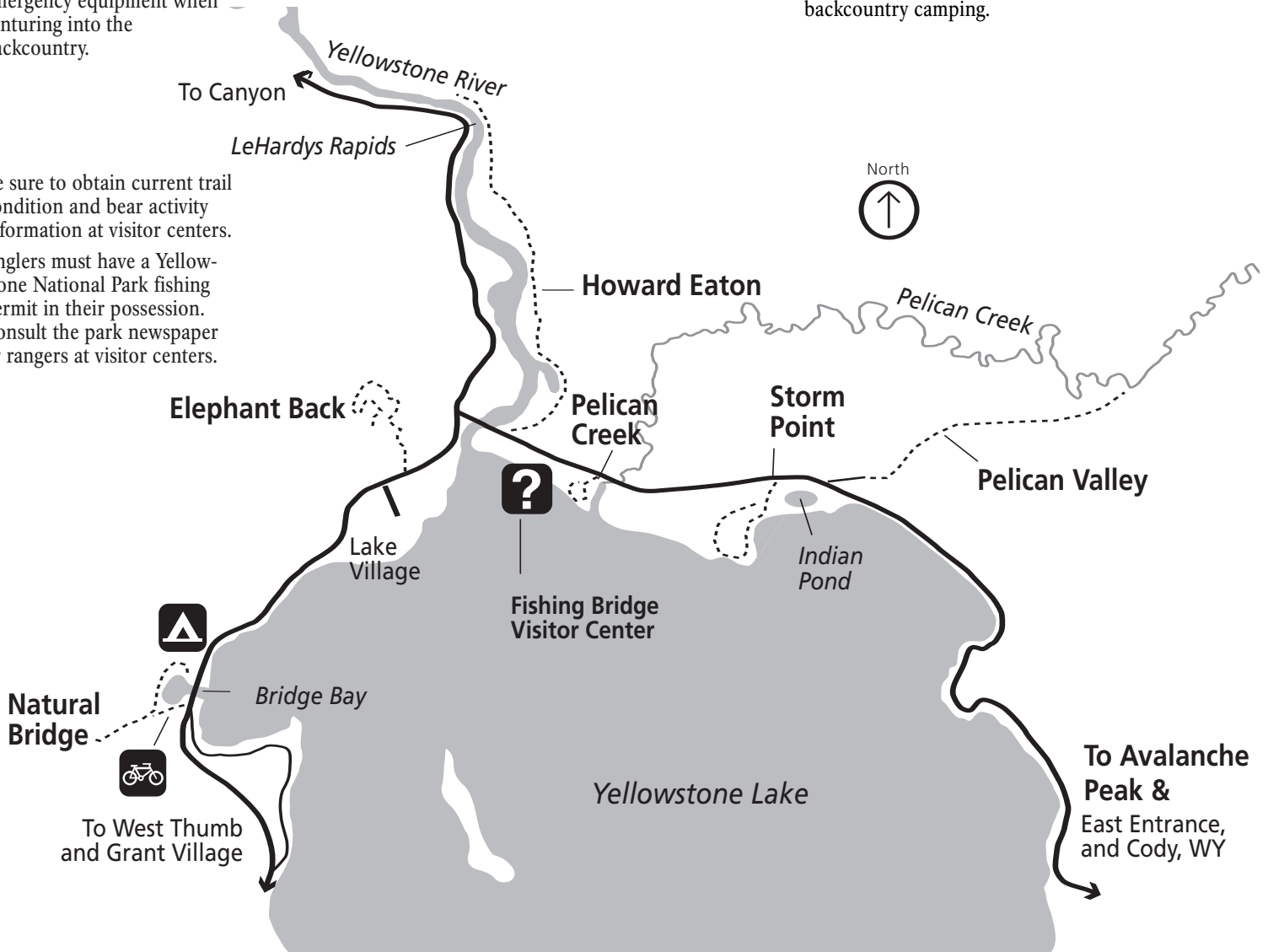
Bears: Although your chance of an encounter is low, your safety is not guaranteed. Minimize your risks by making loud noises, shouting, or singing. Hike in groups and use caution where vision is obstructed. Do not hike after dark. Avoid carcasses; bears often defend this source of food. Obtain detailed bear information from a ranger at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center.

All Wildlife: You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) from bears and at least 25 yards (23 m) from all other animals—including bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, wolves, coyotes. It is illegal to disturb animals from any distance.

Hydrothermal areas: The thin ground in these areas breaks easily, and often overlies scalding water. Stay on the trail.

Valuables: Keep them out of sight when leaving a vehicle at the trailhead.

Backcountry Use: Permits required for backcountry camping.



NATURAL BRIDGE

Distance, round trip: 3 miles (5 km)

Estimated time: 1–2 hours

Difficulty: easy



The bike trail to the bridge begins just south of the marina off the main road.

Trailhead: Bridge Bay Marina parking lot near the campground entrance road.

Trail closed until early summer while bears feed on spawning trout in Bridge Creek. Inquire at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center for opening date and other closures.

The natural bridge is a 51 foot (18 m) cliff of rhyolite rock cut through by Bridge Creek. The hiking trail meanders through the forest for ¼ mile (0.8 km). It then joins a service road and continues to the right (west) for 1 mile (1.5 km) to the Natural Bridge. The short but steep switchback trail to the top of the bridge starts in front of the interpretive exhibit. Above the natural bridge, the trail crosses the creek through a narrow ravine and then continues along the cliff before rejoining the road.

Exercise caution when crossing the ravine.

Note: To protect this fragile resource, *the top of the bridge is closed to hiking.*



PELICAN CREEK

Distance, round trip: 1.3 mile (2 km)
Estimated time: 30 minutes–1 hour
Difficulty: easy

Trailhead: West end of Pelican Creek Bridge, 1 mile (1.5 km) east of Fishing Bridge Visitor Center. This short but diverse trail travels through the forest to the lakeshore before looping back across the marsh along Pelican Creek to the trailhead. It is a scenic introduction to a variety of Yellowstone’s habitats and is a good place for birding.

STORM POINT

Distance, round trip: 2.3 miles (3.7 km)
Estimated time: 1–2 hours
Difficulty: easy
Often closed in late spring and early summer due to bear activity. Inquire at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center about trail closures before hiking.

Trailhead: Indian Pond pullout, 3 miles (5 km) east of Fishing Bridge Visitor Center. This trail begins in the open meadows overlooking Indian Pond and Yellowstone Lake. It passes alongside the pond before turning right (west) into the forest. The trail continues through the trees and out to scenic, wind-swept Storm Point. The rocky area near the point is home to a large colony of yellow-bellied marmots. Following the shoreline to the west, the trail eventually loops back through the lodgepole forest and returns to Indian Pond.

ELEPHANT BACK MOUNTAIN

Distance, round trip: 3.6 miles (5.8 km)
Estimated time: 1½–2½ hours
Difficulty: moderately strenuous

Trailhead: Pullout 1 mile (1.5 km) south of Fishing Bridge Junction. This trail climbs 800 feet (244 m) in 1½ miles (2.4 km) through the dense lodgepole forest. After one mile, the trail splits into a loop. The left fork is the shortest route to the top, though both join again at the overlook. The overlook provides a sweeping panoramic view of Yellowstone Lake and surrounding area.

HOWARD EATON

Distance, round trip: 7 miles (11.3 km)
Estimated time: 2½–3½ hours
Difficulty: easy
Often closed due to bear activity. Inquire at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center before hiking.

Trailhead: Parking lot on east side of the Fishing Bridge. From the east side of the bridge, the trail follows the Yellowstone River for a short distance before paralleling the service road. After leaving the road, the first two miles (3.2 km) meander through meadow, forest, and sage flats with frequent views of the river. The last mile (1.6 km) passes through a dense lodgepole pine forest before climbing gradually to an overview of LeHardys Rapids. Return by the same route. (The trail continues to the Artist Point Road at Canyon, 12 miles [19 km] away, but is not well maintained, requires a full day, and a car shuttle.)

PELICAN VALLEY

Distance, round trip: 6.8 miles (10.8 km)
Estimated time: 4–5 hours
Difficulty: moderately easy
Many restrictions apply to this trail because it is in prime grizzly bear habitat:

- *Closed until July 4th*
- *Day-use only, 9 AM–7 PM*
- *Groups of four or more hikers recommended*
- *Off-trail travel prohibited on the first 2.5 miles (4 km)*

Trailhead: Turn onto the gravel road across from Indian Pond, 3 miles (4.8 km) east of Fishing Bridge Visitor Center; park at end of road. You are entering some of the best grizzly country in the lower 48 states—and also prime habitat for bison and other grassland animals. The trail heads north, crosses a few bridges through a meadow, then enters the forest. After it leaves the forest, it ascends a small hill to a nice overlook of the valley, with the creek below and the Absaroka Mountains to the east. From here, the trail turns slightly to the right (east) and passes through a small hydrothermal area. *Stay on the trail through this fragile and hazardous area.* Soon, the trail veers north (left), crosses a small creek, and climbs up a cutbank. This is a good place to rest and enjoy the nice views of Pelican Creek. One mile farther, the trail reaches a washed-out bridge. Beyond here the trail continues into Yellowstone’s vast backcountry. The dayhike stops here; return by the same route. *Observe all bear-related precautions; be alert, make noise at blind curves and hills along the trail, and carry bear spray.*

AVALANCHE PEAK

Distance, round trip: 4 miles (6.4 km)
Estimated time: 3–4 hours
Difficulty: extremely strenuous

Caution—strenuous, high elevation trail:

- Check at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center for current trail conditions. This trail is often snow-covered until early July.
- Not recommended for persons with heart and/or respiratory problems.
- Be aware of lightning above treeline.
- Even on warm summer days, bring rain gear, wool hats, and gloves.
- Burned trees may fall without warning.

Trailhead: 19 miles (30.6 km) east of Fishing Bridge Junction (8 miles/12.9 km west of East Entrance), across the road from pullout at west end of Eleanor Lake. Across the road from the parking area and to the right of the creek, the trail enters the forest and begins its steep ascent—2,100 feet in 2 miles (3.2 km). In just over a mile, it arrives at the base of the large bowl of Avalanche Peak, then continues to the left and switches back over large talus slopes to an open level area below the summit. Follow the established trail up to the narrow ridge-line and cross it with extreme caution. Those who make this arduous hike will be rewarded with stunning views of some of the park’s tallest and most remote alpine peaks. Return by the same route. *Grizzly bears frequent this area in the fall, seeking out whitebark pine nuts. Hiking this trail is not recommended in September and October.*

For more information

www.nps.gov/yell
www.yellowstoneassociation.org

Each major area of the park has a free hike handout. The Yellowstone Association bookstores also sell a “Dayhike Sampler” with a hike or two per area plus several guides for trails throughout the park. Proceeds from all sales support Yellowstone National Park’s interpretive ranger programs.